

(c) Remarks

The Claims are 8, 11-13, 15-20 and 51-55, with claims 8, 13 and 52-54 being independent. Claims 53-55 have been added to provide Applicants with a more complete scope of protection. Support for these changes is located in the specification at page 16, lines 1-6, page 17, lines 16-24 and page 38, lines 19-24. Accordingly, no new matter has been added and reconsideration or consideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

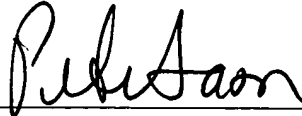
In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the document listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449.

It is respectfully requested that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that a copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be returned indicating that such information has been considered.

An early and favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Peter Saxon", written over a horizontal line.

Peter Saxon  
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FORM PTO 1449 (modified)		ATTY DOCKET NO. <b>03500.017136.</b>			APPLICATION NO. <b>10/656,242</b>		
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary)		APPLICANT <b>NOBUHIRO YASAI, ET AL.</b>					
		FILING DATE <b>September 8, 2003</b>				GROUP <b>1773</b>	
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
		<b>6,027,796</b>	<b>2/2000</b>	<b>Kondoh et al.</b>	<b>428</b>	<b>312.8</b>	
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT
OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)							
EXAMINER				DATE CONSIDERED			

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.